III.   REMARKS

1. Claims 1-17 remain in the application. Claims 1, 6, 9, 14, and 17 have been amended.

The amendments to the claims are not limiting, are not made for reasons related to patentability, and do not raise issues of estoppel.

The amendments to correct a lack of antecedent basis and the informality are not limiting, are not made for reasons related to patentability, and do not raise issues of estoppel.

2. Claim 9 has been amended to overcome the 35 USC 112, second paragraph rejection. Applicants respectfully submit that the claim element "a communication network for transmitting information" is not a means plus function limitation.

3. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-17 are patentable over the combination of Preston et al. (US 2002/0032853, "Preston") and Olofsson et al. (US 6,647,265, "Olofsson") under 35 USC 103(a).

The combination of Preston and Olofsson fails to disclose or suggest

> inserting said entirely formed messages into data fields of frames of a lower layer of said protocol stack;

as recited by claim 1.

The combination of Preston and Olofsson also fails to disclose or suggest

> said protocol stack is configured for performing one or more protocol conversions for said entirely formed messages to insert said entirely formed messages into data fields of frames of a lower layer of said protocol stack,

as recited by claims 9 and 17.

Preston discloses layered, secure data communication with a mobile unit over different communication links. In paragraphs [0040]-[0042] Preston discloses a message 202 with a payload 204 and a header 206 with a destination indicator 208 and a message type field 210. a protocol label is pre-pended to message 202 indicating the virtual socket on which the message

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was received. A content label may also be pre-pended to the message. Preston does not disclose or suggest inserting said entirely formed messages into data fields of frames of a lower layer of a protocol stack. Preston also fails to disclose or suggest a protocol stack configured for performing one or more protocol conversions for said entirely formed messages to insert said entirely formed messages into data fields of frames of a lower layer of said protocol stack. Preston simply pre-pends a protocol label and a content label onto an existing message.
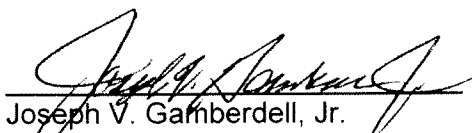
Olofssen also fails to disclose or suggest this feature. Olofssen is directed to an application interpreter for generating a bearer request and an admission control apparatus for matching the bearer request with an offered bearer. There is no disclosure related to inserting entirely formed messages into data fields of frames of a lower layer of a protocol stack.

Because neither reference discloses these features of the present claims, the combination of Preston and Olofsson cannot render the present claims unpatentable. At least for these reasons, independent claims 1, 9, and 17, and dependent claims 2-8 and 10-16 are patentable over the combination of Preston and Olofsson.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph V. Gamberdell, Jr.
Reg. No. 44,695

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Date

Perman & Green, LLP
425 Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824
(203) 259-1800
Customer No.: 2512

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